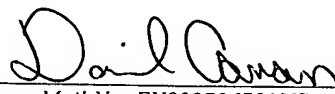


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Kenji Koyama
Serial No.:
Conf. No.:
Filed: 3/19/2004
For: DISK CONTROL UNIT, DISK
DRIVE, DISK CONTROL
METHOD, AND DISK CONTROL
PROGRAM
Art Unit:
Examiner:

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as EXPRESS MAIL in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this date.

3/19/04
Date


Express Mail No. EV032736701US

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This IDS is submitted under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(b) within either of the following time periods, whichever occurs last:

- (a) within three months of either the filing date of the national application or the date of entry into the national stage; or
- (b) before the mailing date of first office action on the merits (i.e., not including actions such as restriction requirements).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO-1449 (Information Disclosure Citation) together with copies of patents, publications or other information of which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Applicant(s) respectfully submit that the citation of any reference on Form PTO-1449 does not constitute an admission that the reference qualifies as prior art.

It is requested that the information disclosed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be made of record in this application.

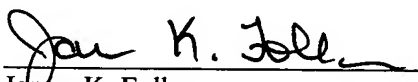
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

GREER, BURNS & CRAIN, LTD.

300 South Wacker Drive – Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Telephone: (312) 360-0080
Facsimile: (312) 360-9315
Customer Number 24978

By:


James K. Folker
Registration No. 37,538

| | | |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Form PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce (Rev. 8-88) Patent and Trademark Office | Attorney Docket No.: 1529.70167 | Serial No.: |
| | Applicant: Kenji Koyama | |
| | Filing Date: March 19, 2004 | Group: |

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION
(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| Examiner Initial* | Document Number | Date | Name | Class | Subclass | Filing Date If Appropriate |
|-------------------|-----------------|------|------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | Document Number | Date | Country | Class | Subclass | Translation | |
|--|-----------------|---------------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | | | | | | Yes | No |
| | 2000-285602 | Oct. 13, 2000 | Japan | | | Abs. | |
| | 6-012158 | Jan. 21, 1994 | Japan | | | Abs. | |
| | 9-147483 | Jun. 6, 1997 | Japan | | | Abs. | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

| | |
|--|--|
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Examiner | Date Considered |
|----------|-----------------|

*Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.